

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 SS-15 IGA-02 TRSE-00 L-03  
MC-02 ACDA-10 EB-08 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-15 ERDA-07  
CIAE-00 /078 W  
-----190645 100773 /14

R 182038Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3525  
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 1422

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MASS ESTC CI  
SUBJECT: EMBARGO ON MILITARY SALES TO CHILE

REF: 76 SANTIAGO 11278

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN VISITED BY ORLANDO ORREGO, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES COMPANY (EMPRESA NACIONAL DE EXPLOSIVOS S.A.) AND KENNETH C. ECKMANN, MANAGER -TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EXPLOSIVES DIVISION, DU PONT COMPANY, IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. BAN ON EXPORT OF NITRO-COTTON TO CHILE. EMPRESA NACIONAL USES NITRO-COTTON, WHICH IT OBTAINS IN THE U.S. FROM DU PONT, FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY.

2. ALTHOUGH NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES COMPANY IS GOVERNMENT OWNED, MR ORREGO CLAIMS THAT IT MANUFACTURES NO EXPLOSIVES OR ARMS FOR THE CHILEAN MILITARY. BOTH MR ORREGO AND MR ECKMANN SAY THAT THE TYPE OF MIDDLE-GRADE NITRO-COTTON WHICH THE NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES COMPANY WISHES TO IMPORT IS NOT OF A HIGH ENOUGH PURITY TO MAKE GOOD AMMUNITION. MOREOVER, THEY CLAIM THAT THE CHILEAN MILITARY IS ALREADY PRODUCING NITRO-COTTON OF A HIGHER GRADE THAT MEETS ITS OWN NEEDS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EXAMINATION OF  
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THIS CASE AND TIMELY RESPONSE. APPRECIABLE QUANTITY OF U.S. EXPORTS STANDS TO BE PREJUDICED IF PROHIBITION IS EFFECTIVE.

4. DEPARTMENT IS REMINDED THAT EMBASSY HAS NOT YET HAD RESPONSE TO REFTEL WHICH INVOLVED EXPORT OF ALUMINUM TO IRECO CHILE, THE OTHER CHILEAN FIRM ENGAGED IN

THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY.  
POPPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 76 SANTIAGO 11278  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009